

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Advisory Action mailed on September 16, 2003, which refused entry of the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed on August 29, 2003. The Advisory Action did approve the proposed drawing corrections and substitute specification that were submitted with that Amendment.

Entry of the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed on August 29, 2003 is now respectfully requested in connection with filing of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination. Pursuant to this Amendment and Request for Continued Examination, the claims are further amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 5, 6 and 12 are now cancelled without prejudice. Claims 10 and 13 are now amended to be independent by incorporation of the recitations in the claims on which they previously depended. Claims 1-4, 10, 11, and 13-15 are currently pending.

Interview Summary

A brief telephonic interview was held on September 16, 2003 between Jay M. Brown and Examiner Lopez at Mr. Brown's request. No exhibits were shown, no demonstration was conducted, and no prior art was discussed. Mr. Brown asked the Examiner to clarify paragraph 2 of the Advisory Action. Mr. Brown asked the Examiner specifically whether, if the applicants chose to now cancel claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 without prejudice, he would withdraw the objection, enter the amendment, and allow the other pending claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14 and 15. Examiner Lopez stated that in such a case he would maintain the final rejection and would not allow the other claims.

The Objection to the Claims

The Advisory Action objected to the amendments to claims 5, 10, 12 and 13, stating that changing them from independent to dependent form "requires further consideration, due to 112 and 101 rejections." Applicants respectfully traverse this objection and asserted rejections, and respectfully request that they now be withdrawn. Claims 5, 6 and 12 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the objection as to claims 5 and 12 is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to be independent by incorporation of the recitations in claims 1 and 5 on which it previously depended. Claim 13 has been amended to be independent by incorporation of the recitations in claim 11 on which it previously depended. Accordingly, the objections as to claims 10 and 13 are overcome. No substantive grounds for any "112 and 101 rejections" have been provided in the Advisory Action.

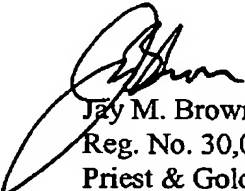
The Final Official Action

The Final Official Action stated various objections to and rejections of the claims. The discussion of the present invention and of all of such objections and rejections as set forth in the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed on August 29, 2003 are repeated here and are fully dispositive of those matters.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejections and prompt allowance are requested. Counsel for applicants respectfully requests that a telephonic interview be scheduled so that any remaining issues can be discussed, and invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay M. Brown
Reg. No. 30,033
Priest & Goldstein, PLLC
5015 Southpark Drive, Suite 230
Durham, NC 27713-7736
(919) 806-1600

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

OCT 07 2003

OFFICIAL